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DAVID
~~Joseph~~ Sheppard House
Sea Breeze, Cumberland County, New Jersey
2 near Greenwich

HABS-NJ-554

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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6 GREW, V.
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DAVID

~~Joseph~~ Sheppard House
Sea Breeze, Cumberland County, New Jersey

Owner: Jesse E. Smith
240 East Commerce Street
Bridgeton, New Jersey

Date of Erection: 1781

Architect:

Builder: Joseph Sheppard

Present Condition: Good

Number of Stories: Two and one-half

Materials of Construction: Foundation - brick

Exterior walls - brick

Interior walls - plaster

Inside brick chimneys

Roof - pitch

Historical Data:

According to the date on the southwest elevation this house was built in 1781. The builder was Joseph Sheppard who died one year later; the tombstone marking his grave is still standing closeby. By his will (76F - Secretary of State's Office, Trenton) he stipulated that the portion with the house go to his son David. David Sheppard, apparently, died intestate; the map of the division of his estate (Book of Divisions - page 614 - Surrogate's Office, Cumberland County) shows that the tract with the house was set off to the heirs of Sarah Walker. On February 13, 1829 (51-267 Cumberland County

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Deeds) there is a transfer recorded of Thomas Bilderback and wife and Giddeon S. Flanigan and wife to William S. Walker. The grantors had received the property through Sarah Walker; Thomas Bilderback's wife was Phoebe Walker, an heir of Sarah. William F. Walker held title until 1838 when he transferred (66-413 Cumberland County Deeds) the property to Richard Laning who by will (G-323 Cumberland County Wills) devised the property to his son Richard Laning. The latter sold in 1924 (419-431 Cumberland County Deeds) to George B. Williams who transferred three years later (445-390 Cumberland County Deeds) to the present owner Jesse E. Smith. The description of the property is the same in all of these transfers.

Bibliography:

Unger, J. J. Brief History of Cumberland County, New Jersey Bridgeton, 1933

A search of Cumberland County court records by A. F. Murray, Cumberland County Office, and of records in the Secretary of State's Office by Robert M. Falcey, Mercer County Office

Walter E. Rutt
Supervising Historian

Approved:

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